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RULES

AND

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

BENEVOLENT

IRISH SOCIETY.

FEBRUARY 17th, 1806.

St. John's, Newfoundland:
Printed by John Ryan & Son,
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EXCELLENT MAJESTY.
1807.

AT a Meeting held at the LONDON TAVERN, in *St. John's*, NEWFOUNDLAND, on Wedneſday the 5th *February*, 1806, of a number of Iriſh Gentlemen deſirous of relieving the wants and diſtreſſes of their Countrymen and fellow-creatures at large—It was unanimouſly agreed, that a Society formed upon true principles of Benevolence and Philanthropy would be the moſt effectual mode of eſtabliſhing a permanent relief to the wretched and diſtreſſed. Under this conviction it was propoſed to elect a Committee from the Gentlemen preſent to form a code of Rules and Regulations for the government of the Society—the extenſion and regulation of the Charity—and to conſult with the Right Reverend Doctor O'DONEL and others, whoſe local knowledge of this Country could beſt inform them as to the moſt effectual and beneficial mode of eſtabliſhing a Charitable Iriſh Society upon firm principles of Loyalty, true Benevolence and Philanthropy, when the following Gentlemen were nominated and unanimouſly choſen.

Lieut. Col. John Murray,
James Macbraire, Eſquire,
John M'Killop, Eſq.
Mr. Joſeph Church,
Capt. Winckworth Tonge.

The Committee appointed to meet at the LONDON TAVERN, on Saturday the 8th inſtant, at 12 o'clock.

LONDON

LONDON TAVERN, FEB. 8th, 1806.

The Committee having met agreeable to the Reſolution paſſed on Wedneſday the 5th inſt. beg to ſubmit the following Rules and Conſtitution for the Society.

Title of the Society.

THE BENEVOLENT IRISH SOCIETY.

Seal.

The figure of ST. PATRICK bearing the CROSS, with the Motto encircling the Seal, "He that gives to the Poor lends to the Lord."

Qualification for Members.

Natives of Ireland, Sons of Iriſhmen, or Women deſcendants of any preſent or future Member of this Society, are qualified to become Members.

Mode of Election.

A perſon deſirous of becoming a Member of this Society, muſt be propoſed by a Member thereof at a general or ſpecial meeting of the Society. The Member who propoſes another for admiſſion, muſt give in writing to the Secretary the name, age, place of nativity and place of reſidence, which deſcription the Secretary muſt enter in a Book for that purpoſe, with the time and proceeding of ſuch election; the election muſt be by ballot, and two-thirds of the Members preſent muſt conſent or the election is diſapproved: no Member to propoſe another for election of whoſe character and qualifications he is not informed, as he is in a certain degree pledged to the Society for his good conduct.

Entrance Fee for Members.

Every Member ſhall ſubſcribe his Name to the Rules and Conſtitution of the Society, and ſhall pay

a ſum not leſs than *Four Dollars*, to be applied to the purpoſes of the Society, and the ſum of *Two Shillings* and *Six Pence* as a fee to the Secretary.

Honorary Members.

Any perſon qualified by birth as a Member, and who is a temporary Inhabitant of this Iſland, deſirous of joining his Countrymen, may be admitted by his qualification being handed by a Member to the Preſident, who on ſuch occaſion will proceed to immediate ballot; ſuch perſon ſo admitted will be ſtiled an honorary Member, and muſt pay on admiſſion the entrance fees as eſtabliſhed; but he will not be called upon for quarterly Donations unleſs he ſhall become a reſident, and of courſe a permanent Member, in which caſe he muſt pay all the arrears of quarterly Donations during his reſidence in the Iſland.

Mode of choosing Officers.

The Officers of this Society ſhall conſiſt of a Preſident, Vice-Preſident, and two Aſſiſtants, a Treaſurer and a Secretary, who ſhall be choſen annually by the majority of the Society preſent, on the 17th day of *February*. The Officers ſhall enter on their duties on the 17th day of *March*.

Duty of Officers.

The Preſident, or in his abſence the Vice, or Aſſiſtants, according to ſeniority, ſhall in caſes of neceſſity, have power to aſſemble the Society at the uſual place appointed for meeting in the Town of SAINT JOHN'S. The preſiding Officer ſhall at all times ſtate to the Society all queſtions ariſing for debate or conſideration, and ſhall declare the opinion of the Society according to the majority, but if doubts ſhall ariſe they ſhall be ſettled by ballot.

The preſiding Officer is inveſted with full power and authority to preſerve ſilence, order and decorum,

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and to check all irregularity; to impoſe Fines at his diſcretion, not exceeding *One Shilling* for each offence.

Secretary. The Secretary is to keep a Book with a correct liſt of all the Members, by whom propoſed, the time admitted and the ſum paid; he ſhall at each ſtated meeting of the Society, take a correct liſt of all the Members preſent and abſent, and carefully inſert all payments made and debts due by abſentees; in caſe of any extra meeting, he is to ſummon all Members that can poſſibly attend; he ſhall keep a regular entry of all bye-laws or regulations of the Society from time to time; he ſhall have charge of all Books and Papers of the Society; he ſhall be a conſtant Member of the Committee of Charity, and ſhall aid and aſſiſt in entering all their proceedings in a Book for that purpoſe, and ſhall at every annual meeting of the Society in *February*, lay ſuch Book before them, accounting for all relief granted to perſons in diſtreſs during the year, with the preſent ſtate of the perſons ſo relieved, which, when approved by the Society, he will enter in their proceedings; he will keep a public ſubſcription Book, where the names of all charitable diſpoſed perſons who may think fit to ſubſcribe for the benefit of the Charity will be entered, together with communications from the other perſons of the Society authorized to receive Subſcriptions or Donations. As the Secretary muſt neceſſarily devote much time and trouble to his duty, he ſhall be exempted from paying his Quarterly dues; he ſhall be paid *Two Guineas* annually for his attendance on the Committee of Charity from the Funds; he ſhall receive from each Member for the copy of the Rules and Conſtitution *Two Shillings* and *Six Pence*, and for every Certificate granted, *Five Shillings*.

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The Preſident, Vice-Preſident and their Aſſiſtants —the Committee of Charity—the Committee of Review and Correſpondence, together with the Secretary, are alone authorized by the Society to receive Subſcriptions or charitable Donations in its name—the names of the Subſcribers to be handed to the Secretary in writing, and alſo the Monies received to be paid the Treaſurer on account of the Society as ſoon as poſſible. Books for Charitable Donations.

The Treaſurer ſhall hold all the Money of the Society unappropriated in his hands, he ſigning and ſealing an inſtrument in writing, declaring the uſes, and giving the Secretary a receipt for the amount thereof. When it ſhall be deemed neceſſary by a majority of the Society to veſt ſurplus Money in the Funds, or lend it to a Member at intereſt, the Treaſurer of the Society, with two other Members choſen by the majority, ſhall be conſidered as Truſtees for ſuch inveſtment, and ſuch ſums ſhall be ſecurely placed for the ſole uſe and benefit of the charitable intentions of this Society. All receipts and payments ſhall be made by the Treaſurer, and his Books ſhall be exhibited to the Society at each meeting, correctly ſtating all receipts and payments, and on the annual meeting he ſhall lay before the Society an abſtract of all the Accounts, ſhewing the ſtate of the Funds. When the Treaſurer ſhall have *Twenty Pounds* in hand, he ſhall report to the Preſident, who will at the next meeting inform the Society thereof. Treasurer.

The Funds will conſiſt of the entrance Fee from Members—the Donations of charitable and well diſpoſed perſons, in addition to which each Member will pay *Four Shillings* and *Six Pence* per quarter, towards the Funds of the Society.—The Funds it is hoped Funds.

hoped will exceed the expences—All Monies ſo ariſing ſhall be placed at Intereſt, at the option of the majority of the Society, whether placed in the public Funds or lent to Members on good ſecurity.

Votes for annual Charity.

The Society ſhall at each annual meeting in *February*, devote ſuch ſums as the majority ſhall think their Funds can afford, to the Committee of Charity, to fulfil the benevolent intentions of the Society.

Committee of Charity.

The Committee of Charity ſhall conſiſt for the preſent of five Members, beſide the Secretary, which ſhall be choſen annually by the majority of the Society. This Committee ſhall meet as often as it ſhall think neceſſary, and ſhall diſtribute the relief of the Society to ſuch perſons as they ſhall think deſerving, keeping a correct account for the Society of the relief voted: no relief to be granted but by a majority of the Committee, and in caſe of difficulty or diſagreement, it is to be referred to the Preſident. The Committee ſhall attend carefully to the claims of the Children of Parents, whoſe vices or misfortunes prevent their ſupporting their offſpring, to place ſuch Children out to good Maſters, ſo that they may become good and uſeful members of the community —to relieve the aged, the infirm, and thoſe who from accident or misfortune are unable to reſort to labour for their ſupport, and to encourage Induſtry by the aid of the Funds of the Society, when they can be made really conducive thereto—to check Vice and Immorality. At the diſcretion of this Committee relief will be afforded by the Society when the Funds admit thereof to the unfortunate of all nations, as general Philanthropy is the object of the Society as far as poſſible. This Committee is alſo required to

communicate

communicate with all other Charitable Inſtitutions in this Iſland, and to exchange liſts of the objects preſented for Charity, with the relief granted to prevent impoſition, and to obtain information of diſtreſſed perſons, in order to give aſſiſtance as far as the Funds of this Society will admit. This Committee has full power to draw from the Treaſurer as they require it, the ſum voted for the Charity of the year.

Committee of Review & Correſpondence.

The Committee of Review and Correſpondence will conſiſt of three Members reſident in this Town, and of as many Members at Out-ports as ſhall from time to time be admitted by the Society: it is the duty of this Committee to explain to the benevolent and humane, the nature of the Society and the object it has in view: it ſhall receive communications from all Members, and all others which has a tendency to promote the welfare of the Inſtitution and hold Correſpondence with its Members at Out-ports, to further the Benevolent views of the Society.

Quarterly Meetings.

The 17th day of *February*, the 17th day of *May*, the 17th of *Auguſt*, and the 17th of *November*; theſe are conſidered as the ſtated times of Meeting, at each of which each Member of the Society pays *Four Shillings* and *Six Pence*, termed Quarterly dues, and *One Shilling* to defray the expence of the Meeting; but as the Fiſhery and other neceſſary avocations, may preclude Members from attending all the Meetings, ſuch Members muſt ſtate the cauſe of non-attendance to the Preſident, which if deemed a ſufficient excuſe by a majority of the Society, it will be admitted.—Any Member who abſents himſelf without a ſufficient cauſe ſhall be fined *One Shilling* for each offence; but Members of this Society, who

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from various calls of life quit this Iſland, and are abſent from it more than one year, ſhall on their quitting, write and ſtate their probable abſence to the Preſident, ſuch Members ſhall be exempt from paying dues till they return, they then muſt pay for their firſt year of abſence; but any Member reſident in this Iſland, who ſhall neglect to pay his dues within the year, that is to ſay, from one Annual meeting to the other, ſhall at the enſuing Quarterly meeting on the 17th *May*, be reported by the Secretary and ſtruck off the liſt of Subſcribers, ſtating the reaſon; and he ſhall not be re-admitted, but by a majority of Votes in his favour, paying one half the annual Subſcription as a Fine, in addition to his Quarterly dues in arrear.

Annual Feſtival.

Thoroughly ſenſible of the bleſſings of the Chriſtian Religion, the Society will celebrate their annual Feſtival the 17th day of *March*, being the day that immemorial cuſtom has ſet apart for the commemoration of the Holy ST. PATRICK, who firſt preached the Chriſtian Religion to our Anceſtors.—On that day the Members of the Society are to wear on their breaſts a ſprig of the Shamrock which many of the firſt Chriſtians wore as a ſymbol of their belief in our Holy Religion, it having been uſed by ST. PATRICK as a type to explain to his hearers a part of our Religious ceremonies. If the 17th of any of the Quarterly Meetings or of the Feſtival happens on a Sunday, it ſhall take place on the day following.—The mode of celebrating the Feſtival annually, to be regulated at the Meeting on the 17th *February*.

As the proſperity of the Society will entirely depend on the good conduct of the Members, it is fit

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the Rules and Conſtitution ſhould be minutely attended to; it is therefore the duty of all Members to aid and aſſiſt the Officers of the Society in their reſpective duties, to be as punctual as poſſible in their attendance of the Meetings of the Society, and in all reſpects to promote its welfare—they are in all caſes to behave as good and Loyal ſubjects, zealouſly to exert themſelves in ſupport of the Laws of our Country, to avoid all controverſy on Religious or Political ſubjects, to conduct themſelves with kindneſs and friendſhip to their brother Members, and to promote harmony and good will in the Society.—Finally, it is the duty of every Member by his punctual attendance at the Service of the ſeveral Religious Societies to which they belong, and by the regularity of their lives to ſet a good example to others, and thereby encourage the well diſpoſed to unite in the ſupport of a Society that has no other object in view but to ſuccour the diſtreſſed and promote Benevolence and good will to all Men. Duty of Members.

On Public days the Officers of the Society will wear a Saſh with the Harp and Crown, agreeable to uſage in all Iriſh Societies; theſe, together with the Seal and Books neceſſary, are to be paid for from the Funds of the Society, and to be conſidered their property. Badge.

It is fully underſtood and hereby made a permanent Law of this Society, that no perſon having once ſubſcribed as a Member, ſhall withdraw himſelf from the Society without the conſent of the Preſident, to whom he muſt addreſs himſelf in writing, ſtating his reaſons for ſo doing, which if deemed ſufficient, he ſhall be intitled to apply for his Certificate. Any

Member

Member withdrawing himſelf in oppoſition to this Rule, his caſe ſhall be reported to the Society, and his Name ſtruck off the liſt as an *expelled Member*.

It is alſo made a permanent Law revocable only by five-ſixths of all ſubſcribing Members agreeing thereto, that this Society ſhall not be diſſolved or broken, or its Funds otherwiſe applied or uſed but for the purpoſes above declared in our Rules and Conſtitution, and no vote or votes of any particular number of this Society, ſhall in any way have power over the Funds or other property of this Society, except as directed in the Rules and Conſtitution, as "Votes for Annual Charity;"—but it is to be fully and clearly underſtood, that two-thirds of the ſubſcribing Members are preſent at ſuch Meeting, they can only have power to vote as far as the Annual income of the Society may amount to—but Money funded or at intereſt for the Society, cannot be taken but by the conſent of two-thirds of the ſubſcribing Members.

Mode of enacting bye-Laws.

All bye-Laws or Regulations muſt be paſſed by a majority of votes at the Meeting at which it is propoſed, and may continue in force until the Annual meeting in *February*, when it is to be ſubmitted to the Society, and if approved, entered in its Records.

(Signed) John Murray,
John M'Killop,
Joſeph Church,
Winckworth Tonge,
James Macbraire.

A Meeting of the Members of the BENEVOLENT IRISH SOCIETY was requeſted and held at the LONDON

DON TAVERN, in *St. John's*, on Monday the 17th of *February*, when it was requeſted that the Right Reverend Doctor O'DONEL would take the Chair, when Capt. WINCKWORTH TONGE, in the name of the Committee, preſented and by leave read the Rules and Conſtitution compiled and framed by the Committee, when the following Subſcribers unanimouſly approved, ratified, and bound themſelves by their ſignatures to ſupport and obey in all things, and to their utmoſt power maintain inviolate.

James O'Donel,
Mich. O'Donel,
Fade Goff,
Thomas Ryan,
Dan. Coughlan,
Wm. Elmes,
David Duggan,
Patrick Ryan,
Luke Maddock,
Thos. Meagher,
Joſeph Power,
John Murray,
John Dowſley,
Pat. M'Grath,
Ant. Godfrey,
John Wall,
John Scott,
T. Mullowney,
William Walſh,
Edward Molloy,
Jere. Hearn,
John Power,
John Ryan,
Den. Kennedy,
Barring. Perrin,
Thos. Coſtello,
Pat. Redmond,
Mich. Murphy,
William Walſh,
John Brophey,
William Kieley,
Tim. Flannery,
Edw. Condon,
William Power,
James Leane,
Wm. M'Carthy,
Pat. Warren,
Mich. Kelly,
John Murphy,
W. Mahon,
Dan. Ryan,
Pat. Douglaſs,
John Murphy,
Mat. Gleeſon,
Joſeph Coſtello,
Henry Shea,
James Murphy,
Pat. Flannery,
John Phelan,
Pat. Walſh,
James Readigan,
Mich. Mara,
James Power,
Mich. Farrel,
Gar. Meade,
Thomas Codd,
John Briſcoe,
Lt. Bowerman,
Robt. Hammel,
Adj. Moore,
William Haly,
W. Armſtrong,
James Foaley,
Daniel Tracey,
Corn. Quirk,
Mich. Murphy,
Wm. Morley,
John Chancey,
John Flood,
Laurence Kieley,
W. Mullowney,
Pat. Murphy,
Dennis Murphy,
Mich. Walſh.

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The Society then proceeded to the election of its Officers agreeable to the Rules, when the following Gentlemen were propoſed and unanimouſly choſen to fill the Offices and Committees, as ſet oppoſite their Names.

Capt. Winckworth Tonge,	Preſident.
Lieut. Col. John Murray,	Vice-Preſident.
Mr. Joſeph Church,	1ſt Aſſiſtant.
Lieut. John M'Killop,	2d do.
Mr. Henry Shea,	Secretary.
James Macbraire, Eſq.	Treaſurer.

COMMITTEE of CHARITY.

William Elmes, Eſq.	1ſt Member.
Major William Haley,	2d do.
Doctor David Duggan,	3d do.
Mr. Fade Goff,	4th do.
Mr. John Murray,	5th do.

The Right Rev. Doctor O'DONEL, unanimouſly voted as a permanent Honorary Member of this Committee.

COMMITTEE of REVIEW and CORRESPONDENCE.

Rev. Mr. Mich. O'Donel,	1ſt Member.
Doctor Coughlan,	2d do.
Mr. Patrick Ryan,	3d do.

Lieut. John M'Killop, R. N. an Honorary Member.

No part of the foregoing Rules and Regulations is to be reſcinded, or any new ones made, except paſſed the

by the majority at the Annual meeting, unleſs it ſhall appear that at a Quarterly meeting a majority of the Committee is preſent when the alteration may be propoſed, and if approved, it is then to be ſubmitted to the Magiſtrates in Seſſion, and if finally approved, by them recorded; and is then to be conſidered part of the ſtanding Rules and Regulations.

An Act of Parliament having been paſſed for legaliſing and protecting all friendly Societies aſſociated for Benevolent purpoſes, and requiring that they ſubmit their Rules and Regulations to the Magiſtrates aſſembled in Seſſions, to be by them approved and entered on the Records of the Court.

The BENEVOLENT IRISH SOCIETY, deſiring to place themſelves under the protection of the Laws ſo provided, ſubmit the foregoing Rules and Regulations.

WINCKWORTH TONGE, *Preſident*,
B. I. S.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

ST. JOHN'S, *to wit.* } *AT the General Quarter Seſſions of the Peace of our Lord the King, holden in and for the ſaid District, on the fifteenth day of* APRIL, *in the forty-ſixth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord* GEORGE *the Third, by the Grace of* GOD, *of the United Kingdom of* Great-Britain *and* Ireland, *King, Defender of the Faith; and in the year of our* LORD, *One thouſand Eight hundred and Six, before*

before THOMAS COOTE, *Esquire, the Reverend* JOHN HARRIES, CLERK, JOHN RENNELL, *and* JOHN BROOME, *Esquires, Justices of our Lord the King, assigned to keep the Peace, and also to hear and determine divers Felonies, Trespasses and Misdemeanors, within the Island and District aforesaid committed, &c. &c. &c.*

The foregoing Rules and Regulations for instituting a Friendly Society, having been this day presented to the Magistrates, assembled at their General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, for the District of SAINT JOHN'S, *for their approval and concurrence, the same were accordingly approved, and ordered to be entered on the Records of the Court.*

Per. Cur.

LIONEL CHANCEY,
Clerk of the Peace.